

The United States Army Corps of Engineers'
Grayson & Murderer's Creeks Feasibility Study
Progress Report – June 22, 2005

Background

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) initiated a Feasibility Study, in cooperation with the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (CCCFCWCD) and the City of Pleasant Hill (PH), on June 30th 2003. The primary objective of the Grayson and Murderer's Creeks Feasibility Study is to determine the extent of Federal interest in reducing flood damages within the study area. The report will result in recommendations to Congress for or against Federal participation in resolving floodwater and related land resource problems identified within the study area. The overall study is divided into two phases. The current phase, or Phase I, will establish a detailed definition of the existing conditions within the study area. The Corps expects to complete Phase I of the study by October 2005. The cost is \$1.4 million and will be shared by the Corps - 50%, CCCFCWCD - 25% and the PH - 25%.

The Corps anticipates the second phase of the study to take an additional 30-months (April 2008) at an estimated cost of \$2.2 million. The same cost sharing formula will be utilized.

Project Activities

Over the past 24-months, the project delivery team (Corps, CCCFCWCD, & PH)) has made significant progress. The following elements of the study are currently underway:

- **Public Involvement & Records Research** – A workshop to collect public input was held in November 2003. Extensive additional research of public information, such as newspaper articles, is being conducted to characterize historic flooding in the study area over the past century. Meetings will be conducted in the future to provide the public an opportunity to review and comment upon the Feasibility Study.
- **Surveying & Mapping** – A consultant was contracted to collect aerial photography of the study area and deliver detailed topographic maps, including hydrographic features within the creeks. The surveying and mapping work will be completed in July 2005.
- **Cultural Resource Studies** – Archaeologists have reviewed records and literature at several repositories to determine the likelihood of disturbing protected cultural resources during construction. Draft findings were published in December 2004.
- **Hydrologic Model Development** – A computer model is being developed to predict the relationship between differing rainfall events and the resulting stream flows at various locations within the watershed. The model will be operational in July 2005.

- Environmental Resource Studies – Biologists conducted research and coordinated with government resource agencies to determine the likelihood of disturbing protected environmental resources. Draft findings were published in May 2005.
- Hydraulic Model Development – A computer model is being developed to predict the geographic extent and depth of floodwater for differing frequencies of storm events within the study area. The model will be operational in July 2005.
- Real Estate Analysis – Consultants will conduct a study to quantify the amount and value of the land, easements, right of way, relocation and disposal areas needed for the alternative projects. The work will be performed during the middle of Phase II.
- Economic Studies – This study will assess the potential flood damage and risk to all structures, private and public properties, traffic disruption and emergency response costs. This information will then be compared to the benefits and cost of various flood protection projects. The no project alternative will also be considered. The financial and legal requirements to implement the plans will also be determined. This study will be completed in September 2005.

Major Milestone – Feasibility Scoping Meeting (F3) – This document will consider all of the information provided in the above-mentioned studies and develop a conclusion and recommendation to proceed or not to proceed with the second phase of the Feasibility Study. If the Army Corps of Engineers decides that further studies are likely to conclude that the benefits of a Grayson and Murderer's Creeks project exceed its cost (benefit/cost analysis), future federal funds may be available. If the costs of the project exceed the benefits, federal funds will not be available. The F3 recommendation is expected to be completed in December 2005 and will then be made available to the public for their review.

Public Inquiries

Primary Contact

The City of Pleasant Hill is the CCCFCWCD's partner and is taking a very active role in the study. The City's representative is Steve Kersevan and he can be contacted by calling (925) 671-5203.

Secondary Contact

The Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is the local sponsor for this study. Paul Detjens, Project Engineer, is available to respond to technical inquiries (925) 313-2394.